Concessional rates for big consumers of electric power.

85. MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Electrical Department gives any concessional rates to big consumers like municipalities, factories, etc.?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): Yes. The municipality is charged for current only at 3½ annas a unit for the energy used for street lights, whereas ordinary consumers are charged at 6 annas a unit. Factories are charged at 1½ annas only per unit, subject to a minimum payment of Rs. 10 per month.

RESOLUTIONS ON MATTERS OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST.

PRESIDENT: The business before the House to-day is the discussion of resolutions. The first resolution stands in the name of Mr. H. O. L. Marikar.

SEPARATION OF CUSTOMS FROM EXCISE.

MR. H. O. L. MARIKAR (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): Sir, the resolution I beg to move runs as follows:

"*This Council recommends to the Government that the customs be separated from the Excise.*"

Customs are of two kinds namely, the land customs and the sea customs. Customs are levied on a variety of articles both imported and exported, and they are for revenue purposes. Import and export duties are also levied for purposes of encouraging the home industries. But it seems to me that no such duties are levied at present in Travancore. I understand customs are levied almost for revenue purposes, and the amount to be levied is determined by Government from time to time.

The Excise Department is divided into four subsidiary departments, *viz.*, (1) salt, (2) tobacco, (3) abkari and opium, and (4) customs. It is expected that salt would give an income of Rs. 21 lakhs, tobacco, Rs. 23 lakhs and 19 thousand, abkari and opium Rs. 25 lakhs and 90 thousand, and customs, deducting Rs. 14 lakhs from the Cochin Port, is expected to give Rs. 29 lakhs and 20 thousand. So the income from customs tops the list.

About salt itself what I wish to submit is, Travancore has got great convenience to manufacture salt for consumption in Travancore. Now we are importing a large quantity of salt from Bombay and Tinnevelly. When we have large extra facilities to manufacture salt locally, it is unnecessary to import a large quantity from outside. In Britain and other places, people are attempting to make petrol from coal. If we cannot manufacture salt from sea water for our own use it is a great pity. The Excise Commissioner must devote his attention for the manufacture of salt locally and sell it in all parts of Travancore and stop the importation of foreign salt. He must also try to export home salt to other parts of India. I do not want the separation of the salt department at present.

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[Mr. H. O. L. Marikar.]

The abkari and opium departments manufacture arrack. Why not the department with the help of our Industrial Director find a way to manufacture a better quality of arrack out of toddy or any other material available and find a market outside so that the industry in that direction could be developed? At one time, arrack was imported into Travancore from Ceylon. That shows, the Ceylon people were most enterprising in manufacturing enough and more arrack for their use. So, it is our sheer carelessness and want of industrial aptitude, that we do not manufacture enough arrack and send it to different parts. It is no use making and selling arrack and toddy as much as possible for local consumption alone and make us alone drunkards. We must sell it to outside people also, but I don't say we must make them drunkards. What I wish to say is, we must increase our wealth by getting money from outside than putting our own money in the Excise Department and getting it as revenue to Government.

In customs revenue we are not at all careful. There is leakage. That requires special consideration at the hands of the Excise Commissioner. We have to go into more details of all the articles, both of import as well as export, so as to get a correct state of our trade which will be a guidance for the Government to shape their policy about trade and industry.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Is the member aware that as long as the terms of the Interportal Convention cannot be revised there is no scope for the development of customs in Travancore?

MR. H. O. L. MARIKAR: But that does not prevent us from doing our duty. Whatever we have to do we must do it systematically. Irrespective of what we pay to the British Government, we have to get our revenue and stop leakages. We must find out what maximum revenue we could get by way of customs. It may be the folly of the previous administrators in the matter of surrendering a large portion of customs revenue to the British Government. The whole of Travancore must agitate and see that the Interportal Trade Convention is revised. The British Government must be persuaded to consider our just claims. If we keep quiet and allow leakages and thus get only 40 or 45 thousand rupees in customs revenue, we will have no voice for claiming our real revenue at all. We must find our best way to collect as much as possible and that as systematically as possible. It is the statistics that would show, what article, what quantity of article and what kind of article were imported and exported. It is also the duty of the customs officer to advise Government about the policy to be adopted in point of trade and industries. The Director of Industries ought to go into the statistics carefully and see what articles we would manufacture locally. Many articles are coming from outside. It is also the duty of the Director of Indurtries to see in which way duty can be imposed on articles coming to and going out of Travancore. We have to get proper

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accounts for all these and a responsible officer for that purpose must be put in as the head of that department. We have already a Port Officer.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN (*Nominated*): May I know from the member, when an All India Federation is effected and when Travancore enters into that, will not revenue customs be subjected to revision?

MR. H. O. L. MARIKAR: The federation question is still in the melting pot. Anyway, we have to manage our affairs for ourselves and that properly.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: The member was saying that customs revenue can be increased in the Travancore State. If the proposed All India Federation is effected and if Travancore joins that, will it not necessitate a surrendering of the customs revenue?

MR. H. O. L. MARIKAR: I do not think we will be surrendering all the customs revenue when we join the federation. Even according to the present Interportal Convention we are already surrendering a portion of the customs income to the British Government.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: While the Federal Strtucture Committee was discussing—

MR. H. O. L. MARIKAR: I have not followed their discussions.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: They have classified certain items for federal revenue.

MR. H. O. L. MARIKAR: I told the member that I have not followed their discussions.

We have got a Port Officer who is paid Rs. 500. Most of the members of this House and the Lower House have stated that the heads of departments should get only Rs. 500. When there is already an officer available on Rs. 500 he could be easily made the head of the Customs Department.

All that the Government will have to say against accepting my resolution will, I think, be that the expenditure will be increased if the two are separated. As I said before, the Port Officer is already there and no expenditure will have to be incurred in creating a head of the department. Again at present there are a number of subordinate officers attending to the prevention of smuggling, etc. The Excise Commissioner said that if this department were to be divided, then we will have to employ a large number of extra hands. But I say that there is nothing standing in the way of employing the hands already available for the customs work also. If there are two departmental heads the Excise commissioner's work may be reduced and he may be able to attend to internal affairs more intensively. I hope the House will find its way to support my resolution.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: I second the resolution.

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MR. A. N. VISVANATHA PILLAI (*Quilon cum Karunagapalli*): സർ, ഞാൻ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ അനുകൂലിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. എക്സൈസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽനിന്നും കസ്റ്റംസ് വകുപ്പിനെ വേർതിരിക്കേണ്ടതത്യാവശ്യമാണു്.

ഫ്രാൻസിലെ കസ്റ്റംസ് കണക്കുനോക്കിയാൽ ഫ്രഞ്ചുകാരുടെ കൃപാ വരുന്നു. അബ്കാരി, സാൾട്ട്, എന്നീ ഇനങ്ങളിലുള്ള വരവു നോക്കിയാൽ ഇത്രതന്നെ വരുന്നതല്ല.

ഇവിടെ എക്സൈസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുണ്ടായതുതന്നെ ഫാവുകാലാണെന്നാണു് തോന്നുന്നതു്. അന്നു ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ വലിയ വരുമാനം ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നില്ലെങ്കിലും ഇന്നു വരുമാനം വളരെ വർദ്ധിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. കസ്റ്റംസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറും എക്സൈസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറും ഒന്നിച്ചുചേർത്തു ഒരാളിൻെറ ഭരണത്തിൻകീഴിലായിട്ടു കൊച്ചിയിലല്ലാതെ മറെറാരുസ്ഥലത്തുംതന്നെ കാണുന്നില്ല. എന്നാൽ കൊച്ചിയിൽ ഇപ്രകാരം വച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതിനു പലന്യായങ്ങളുമുണ്ടു്. ഒന്നാമതു എക്സൈസിൽനിന്നും അവക്കുള്ള വരവു വളരെ തുച്ഛമാണു്. പിന്നീടു കയറുമതിക്കു അവിടെ പ്രത്യേകം ഒരു ഡ്യൂട്ടി ചുമത്തിവരുന്നില്ല. ഇവ്വക കാരണങ്ങളാൽ അതു നീതീകരിക്കാവുന്നതാണു്.

ഇവിടെ ഇന്നത്തെ എക്സൈസ് ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ശ്രദ്ധ, കസ്റ്റംസ് വകുപ്പിനെ തീരെ ഉപേക്ഷിച്ചു്, അബ്കാരിയിനത്തിലുള്ള വരവു് വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിലാണു് പതിഞ്ഞുകാണുന്നതു്. ഇതിനു ഒരുദാഹരണം പറയാം. തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തു ഷാപ്പുകൾ പറവൂരുള്ള അതിർത്തിസ്ഥലങ്ങളെ അപേക്ഷിച്ചു കുറെ കൂടുതലാണെങ്കിലും സ്പിരിറ്റിനു ധാരാളം സൌകര്യമുള്ള അതിർത്തിസ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ നിയമിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർമാരുടെ എണ്ണം തിരുവനന്തപുരം പട്ടണത്തിലുള്ളതിനെ അപേക്ഷിച്ചു തുലോം കുറവാണു്. ഇതിൽനിന്നും അബ്കാരിയിലല്ലാതെ കസ്റ്റംസ് ഇനത്തിൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൻെറ ശ്രദ്ധ തീരെ പതിയുന്നില്ലെന്നു സ്പഷ്ടമാകുന്നു.

എക്സൈസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനെപ്പററി ഇതിനുമുമ്പൊരുദിവസം വാദപ്രതിവാദം നടന്നപ്പോൾ കസ്റ്റംസിൽ വലിയ വരവില്ലെന്നും, അതുകൊണ്ടു അതു വിസ്മരിക്കത്തക്കതാണെന്നും മറും എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണർ പറഞ്ഞതായി ഞാൻ ഓർക്കുന്നു. അങ്ങിനെയാണെങ്കിൽ അതു വലിയ ഒരബദ്ധമാണു്. ഏറുമതി ഇറക്കുമതി തീരുവ സാമാനങ്ങളുടെ വിലയെ സാരമായി ബാധിക്കുന്നതാണെന്നു പ്രത്യേകിച്ചു പറയേണ്ടതില്ലല്ലോ. അതിനാൽ താരിപ്പു് പാളിസി കസ്റ്റംസിൻെറ അധീനതയിലു

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ണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നത്. നല്ലവണ്ണം അറിവുള്ള ഒരാളായിരിക്കണം കസ്റ്റംസിന്റെ മേലദ്ധ്യക്ഷൻ. അങ്ങിനെ ഇപ്പോഠം നടക്കാത്തതുകൊണ്ടു പല അബദ്ധങ്ങളും വരുന്നുണ്ട്. ഫ്ഫ ഠ ഫ ൽ ആണ്ടിന്റെ മദ്ധ്യഭാഗത്തുവച്ചു കരുമുളകിനു അഞ്ചുരൂപായായിരുന്ന ഡ്യൂട്ടി പത്തുരൂപയായി വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചു. തന്നിമിത്തം കച്ചവടക്കാക്കു വന്നിട്ടുള്ള നഷ്ടം സീമാതീതമാണ്. സാധാരണ കച്ചവടക്കാർ ഒരാണ്ടിൽ ഒന്നിച്ചാണ് വിദേശകച്ചവടക്കാരുമായുള്ള കരാറുകഠം ചെയ്യുന്നത്. ഇങ്ങനെ ആണ്ടിന്റെ മദ്ധ്യഭാഗത്തുവച്ചു ഡ്യൂട്ടി ക്രട്ടിയതുനിമിത്തം കച്ചവടക്കാക്കു വിദേശ കച്ചവടക്കാരുമായിട്ടുള്ള കരാറിനെ ലംഘിക്കാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാതെ വരികയും തന്നിമിത്തം വലുതായ നഷ്ടം സഹിക്കേണ്ടതായിവരികയും ചെയ്യും. ഇതിനെസംബന്ധിച്ചു അവർ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെ സങ്കടം അറിയിക്കയും ഡെപ്യൂട്ടേഷൻ പോകയും മററും ചെയ്തു. ഇങ്ങനെ ആണ്ടിന്റെ മദ്ധ്യഭാഗത്തുവച്ചു ഡ്യൂട്ടികൂട്ടുന്ന നയം വളരെതെററാണ്. കസ്റ്റംസിനെപ്പററി തീരെ പരിചയമില്ലാത്തവരല്ലാതെ മററാരുംതന്നെ ഇങ്ങനെ ചെയ്യുകയില്ല. ഈ സംഗതിയിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ദൃഷ്ടി പ്രത്യേകം പതിയണം.

കസ്റ്റംസ് വകുപ്പിനെ എക്സൈസിൽനിന്നും വേർതിരിക്കണമെന്നു ആലപ്പുഴ ചേമ്പർ ആഫ് കാമേർസും, കമ്മേർഷ്യൽ പബ്ലിക്കും, ബാങ്കിംഗ് എൻക്വയറി കമ്മിററിയും ഇക്കണാമിക്കു ഡിപ്രഷൻ എൻക്വയറികമ്മിററിയും അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ട്.

ഇനി എനിക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളതു കസ്റ്റംസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ ശരിയായി ആഡിറു് ഇല്ല എന്നുള്ളതിനെപ്പററിയാണ്. ഇപ്പോഠം ഒരുലക്ഷം രൂപായ്ക്കുമേൽ വരവുള്ള കസ്റ്റംസ് ഹൌസസ് മാത്രമെ ആഡിറു് ചെയ്യുവരുന്നൊള്ളൂ. ഇതു വാസ്തവമാണെങ്കിൽ അതു വളരെതെററാണ്. സാധാരണ കച്ചവടക്കാരുടെ ഇൻവായിസ് വച്ചാണ് ആഡിറുചെയ്യുന്നതു്. എന്നാൽ റെയിൽവെ ഫ്റയിറു മുതലായവയൊക്കെ നോക്കിവേണം ആഡിറുചെയ്യാൻ. മററു കസ്റ്റംസ് ഹൌസുകളും ആഡിറു ചെയ്യാത്തതു് ഉത്തരവാദിത്വമില്ലായ്മയെ കാണിക്കുന്നു എന്നു പറയാതെ തരമില്ല.

ഇനി എനിക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളതു ഇവിടെ ശരിയായ ട്രേഡ് സ്റ്റാററിസ്റ്റിക്സ് ഇല്ല എന്നുള്ളതാണ്. ഇപ്പോഴുള്ള സ്റ്റാററിസ്റ്റിക്സ് കളക്ട് ചെയ്യുന്നതു താഴ്ന്നതരം ജീവനക്കാരാണ്. ഈ ഏർപ്പാടു ഏററവും അബദ്ധമാകുന്നു. തീച്ചയായും ഉത്തരവാദിത്വമുള്ള ആളുകഠംതന്നെയാണ് സ്റ്റാററിസ്റ്റിക്സ് തയ്യാറാക്കേണ്ടതു്.

PRESIDENT: Your time is up.

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MR. KOCHIKAL P. BALAKRISHNAN TAMPI: I heartly second the proposition of Mr. Marikkar, *viz.*, that the Customs must be separated from the Excise. The only objection that the Government found the other day was the fear of re-duplication of the staff as far as customs and excise are concerned. The only thing that the Government have to consider is whether the expenditure would be justified by the results accruing from the separation. We have to concede that the Excise Commissioner is a very hard worked officer who has to look into several branches of the Excise Department. He has also to guard our interests in the Cochin Harbour Scheme. The other day a member of the Cochin Legislative Council was complaining that Cochin went wrong in participating in the Harbour Scheme and that Travancore and British India, the major partners, were leaving Cochin in the lurch. Sir, I am afraid that complaint would be more justified from this Council than from the Cochin Council.

As things stand at present, my view is that the Excise Department may be separated from the Customs and the Customs Officer may be asked to pay more attention to the Harbour Scheme. In that way also the separation would be more beneficial to the State.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: Sir, this subject in the form of a motion by Mr. Balakrishnan Tampi, came up for discussion before this House when the demand for the Excise Department was moved before the Council. The view of the Government so far as this point is concerned was expressed by me at that time. Of course, some members have expressed their sympathy with the Excise Commissioner that he is a hard worked officer when they advocated the separation of the Customs from the remaining branch of the Excise Department partly as a measure of relief to the Excise Commissioner. But that is not the only aspect of the question to be considered by the Government.

MR. A. N. VISVANATHA PILLAI: കൊച്ചിയിലല്ലാതെ മദ്രാസിടയെങ്കിലും എക്സൈസും കസ്റ്റംസും ഒരു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറായി നടത്തുന്നുണ്ടോ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: I understand that in Madras the same member of the Revenue Board is in charge of both the Excise and the Customs.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: In Bombay the Excise Commissioner is the head of Excise, Opium and Salt.

MR. KOCHIKAL P. BALAKRISHNAN TAMPI: But are not these separate branches of the same department? Are they not worked by separate officers?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: The head of the department is the same person.

MR A. N. VISVANATHA PILLAI: ഇവിടെ രാജാന്നിന്നും പ്രത്യേകശാഖകളുണ്ടോ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: Here there are different institutions for the different branches.

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MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Is there any objection in making the Port Officer the Customs Officer ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: That may be considered. There are arguments for and against the proposal to be considered by the Government.

What I have just now to say on the question is that if the Customs branch is put in charge of a separate officer there will be difficulty with regard to the preventive staff. The preventive staff at present is the same for the Abkari, Salt, Tobacco and Customs branches. If the Port Officer is put in charge of the Customs branch also he alone will not be able to manage. He will have to be assisted by other officers.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Will the member be pleased to state what are the articles that will be smuggled into the State ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: All dutiable articles may be smuggled.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Are not these articles taken through the chowkeys?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: Smuggling seldom takes place through chowkeys.

MR. A. N. VISVANATHA PILLAI: എക്സൈസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടമെൻറിൽനിന്നും ഇതു തിരിക്കുന്നപക്ഷം പ്രിവൻറീവ് പോലിക്ക് നിയമിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ആളുകളെ ആവശ്യംപോലെ ഈ വകുപ്പിലേക്ക് മാറ്റാമോ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: A part may be separated, but then the preventive staff in all the places will have to be controlled partly by the Customs Officer and partly by the Exise Commissioner. That is the difficulty which I have to bring to the notice of the Council. The preventive staff will have to be considerably increased if a separate preventive staff is to be appointed for the customs.

MR. H. O. L. MARIKAR: That is only a change of arrangement. You have even now a set of people working as preventive staff and you will have just to make some changes.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: Separate preventive forces will have to be sanctioned for the Customs and the Excise Departments. That is the difficulty.

That would involve a considerable addition to the existing staff. For instance we have a large number of preventive stations in north Travancore at the frontiers of Cochin and Travancore. They are situated at a distance of 3 and 4 miles according to the importance of the place. If the preventive staff is for Customs alone then we may have to provide another preventive staff to safeguard our revenue under tobacco salt and abkari.

MR. H. O. L. MARIKAR: Salt will also come under Customs. And preventive work has to be done by the Customs Department.

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MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: If the whole preventive work is to be entrusted to the Customs Department then the Excise Department will have very little to do.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Will the member be pleased to state how many salt smuggling cases are detected in a year?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: I have not got the figures. Salt smuggling is not done on a large scale.

If the preventive staff is not to be increased for giving separate staff for the Customs and the Excise Departments, then the only alternative will be to put the preventive staff under the joint control of the Customs and the Excise Departments. This dual control would never work well and it cannot seriously be thought of. The question of the expenditure involved in the appointment of separate preventive staff for the two departments will be a serious problem for the Government especially at this time of financial stringency.

MR. KATTIYATTU SIVARAMA PANICKAR: May I know from the member whether this is not the time, for the same reason, to increase the Customs revenue?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: If you are going to increase the revenue that may be considered.

MR. KATTIYATTU SIVARAMA PANICKAR: Is the member of opinion that the possibility of increasing the revenue under Customs has been accepted?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: That is not my point. We cannot immediately effect any considerable increase in the revenue by the separation of the Customs from the Excise.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: May I know from the member whether all the Customs duty collected under tea passing through our chowkeys are credited into our accounts?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: Yes, The whole duty is credited into our accounts.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Is there any rebate allowed to the British Government?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: Nothing.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Has the C. I. D. anything to do with the preventive work?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: We have got a staff of two Sub-Inspectors and two peons specially appointed for the detection and prevention of smuggling.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI: I am asking whether there is any C. I. D. for the work?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: There are two Sub-Inspectors and two peons for the work.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Do Government propose to levy an export duty on cardamom?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: There is a suggestion which is still pending consideration.

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MR. H. O. L. MARIKAR: May I know from the member whether the cardamom cultivators have suggested the imposition of duty on cardamom?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: No cardamom cultivator has suggested it.

MR. KATTIYATTU SIVARAMA PANICKAR: May I know from the member the extent of loss incurred by Government by the smuggling of tobacco?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: That is a question which nobody can answer as it is impossible to get statistics for smuggling.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Is there any proposals to equalise the prices of tobacco in Cochin and Travancore so as to prevent smuggling?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: So far as I am aware there is no proposal.

In addition to the duplication of institutions and the consequent increase in the preventive staff, I must bring to the notice of the House that under the Interportal Trade Convention our scope for initiation and independent action is very much restricted. Except in the case of imports by sea, we can levy import duty only on 3 or 4 articles.

MR. A. N. VISVANATHA PILLAI: അതു ഇമ്പോർട്ട് ഡ്യൂട്ടിമാത്രമല്ലേ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: Under export duty also we are not free to increase the duty as we like.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Has the Travancore Government moved in the matter of revising the Interportal Trade Convention?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: I cannot say anything on that point.

MR. A. N. VISVANATHA PILLAI: ഇതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു റെണ്ട്ടേബിൾ കാൺഫറൻസിൽ എന്തുനടന്നു എന്നു ഇളവരെ ഞങ്ങളെ അറിയിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: I do not know.

Mr. H. O. L. Marikar referred to the preparation of statistics on exports and imports for the purposes of trade. I may inform the House that from the commencement of the last year there is a special staff of clerks in important chowkeys to prepare statistics of imports and exports for the purpose of compiling correct statistics. It is not possible to improve it even if the Customs branch is separated from the Excise.

MR. H. O. L. MARIKAR: May I know from the member whether there is a correct statement showing the quantity of petrol imported into the State every year?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: We have got correct statements.

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MR. A. N. VISVANATHA PILLAI: കൊച്ചിശിവാൻ റൌണ്ട് ടേബിൾ കാൺഫറൻസിൽ നടന്നസംഗതികളെ അവിടത്തെ ജനങ്ങളെ അറിയിച്ചതായിമെമ്പർക്ക് അറിയാമോ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: I have no information on that point.

Mr. Visvanatha Pillai said that the accounts of Customs Houses are not properly audited. I may inform the House that the accounts of important Customs Houses are periodically audited by the Account Officer.

MR. A. N. VISVANATHA PILLAI: ആറകസ്റ്റംസ് ഹൌസിൽ കൂടുതൽ അഡിറ്റുചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: I cannot say exactly. But the accounts of all the Customs Houses are examined by the Assistant Commissioners once every 3 months. The Assistant Commissioners go to the Customs Houses within their jurisdiction every quarter and examine the accounts. The daily accounts are forwarded from the Customs Houses to the Assistant Commissioners and these accounts are thoroughly examined in the Assistant Commissioners' Offices. So there is no want of proper auditing so far as Customs Houses are concerned.

MR. A. N. VISVANATHA PILLAI: ഇവിടെ റെഗ്രുലേഷന്സ് ആയിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: The rules are in the press.

MR. A. N. VISVANATHA PILLAI: ഇതു പ്രസ്സിൽകൊടുത്തിട്ട് എത്രവർഷമായി?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: I cannot say definitely. The rules will be issued soon.

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: Will the member be pleased to state whether there was smuggling of cigarettes in the Trivandrum Chowkey on the pretext that they were book posts?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: I have no information.

MR. A. N. VISVANATHA PILLAI: കുറുമുളകിനെ ഒരുകൊല്ലത്തിന്റെ മദ്ധ്യഭാഗത്തുവച്ചു ഡ്യൂട്ടികുട്ടിയതുകൊണ്ട് കച്ചവടക്കാക്ക് വലിയനഷ്ടമുണ്ടല്ലോ. അതു ശരിയായ ഒരുതീരുമാനപ്രകാരമല്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ടല്ലേ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: That took place some years back. I was not then in charge of the department and I am not in possession of information on the point.

MR. A. N. VISVANATHA PILLAI: അതു ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ കമ്മിഷണരാണെന്ന് ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞില്ല. കസ്റ്റംസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെന്റുകാരാണ് അതിനുകാരണമെന്നു മാത്രമെ ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞൊള്ളൂ.

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MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: I cannot say whether it gave rise to any complaint on the part of the merchants.

So in opposing the motion of Mr. Marikar I would press for the attention of the House that this is not the time for seriously considering the question. In the first place as some members pointed out we are expecting important developments vitally affecting the Customs revenue of the State. Till we can get definite information as to what it is going to be and till the economic condition of the country gets better I think Government would do well not to undertake any reforms involving considerable increase in expenditure. So my suggestion is that this matter may for the present lie over.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI: May I know from the member what is the total expenditure on account of the preventive staff in the Excise Department now?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: No separate accounts are kept for the preventive staff alone.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI: Can the member say what the approximate expenditure would be?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: I cannot say.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI: May I know the portions of the Travancore territory where smuggling has to be watched vigilantly?

PRESIDENT: That question does not arise.

MR. H. O. L. MARIKAR: Sir, the same story has been repeated by the Excise Commissioner as he was saying last time that the separation of the two departments will cost something higher. But no pains no gains. Unless we spend some money we can't get more income. I say that a few additional hands or some re-arrangement will give us additional revenue in the shape of customs. If that is not done, the attention of the Excise Commissioner cannot fully be directed on customs alone. He has to neglect customs affair as well as salt, etc. None of these departments will be satisfactorily managed. For instance, the people of Devicolam taluk are clamouring for home made salt. Even now a contract system is operating. I myself underwent a lot of difficulties so that this salt contract may be abolished. With all that, another arrangement has now been made. That shows that Government want something to do without going fully into the matter and manage things neither to the best interests of the people nor in such a way as to get the maximum revenue to the Government. The reason is not due to want of their willingness but owing to the heavy work handed over to the Excise Commissioner. He has to attend to the sale of opium and ganja and also different arrack shops. He has not even time to see whether those arrack shops which are located very near schools and public places in municipal areas where the residents raise objection are removed. This burning question has been discussed by members even in the former Legislative Councils and if it is acted upon there will be

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[Mr. H. O. L. Marikar.]

some shortage of revenue which the Excise Commissioner cannot make up from any other source. For, his attention will be centralised on one or other matter. He has been burdened with a number of departments and that all around. What we want is to set up a separate department for customs on frontiers and let the Excise Commissioner look after the internal income. The objection for this is extra expenditure. This House as well as the Lower House were for cutting down all possible expenditure by removing superfluous officers in the Police Department, in the Income Tax Department and in the Education Department. We were crying for cutting down expenditure in all these departments. Now we advocate for an increase of expenditure, though not much, a little, because we are confident that by the separation of the two departments we will get much more than what we have to spend and I have no doubt that it is worth a little extra expenditure in an establishment to prevent the leakage of Customs revenue. This matter was brought to the notice of the Council by Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai in the last budget session. That must not have attracted the attention of the Excise Commissioner. And therefore I wish that the House be divided and see the results.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: About salt, I have to offer a few remarks. In the Devicolam taluk, salt was being supplied——

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: I rise to a point of order. There is another resolution about salt.

PRESIDENT: A lot of matters has been referred to during the debate which I allowed to pass, because members have not gone into them in detail. The Excise Commissioner is certainly out of order if he discusses them in detail.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: Mr. Marikar said that sufficient attention is not paid by the Commissioner to the location of arrack shops. Whenever any objection is raised as to the location of a shop, the matter is immediately looked into and if the objection is reasonable and valid the shop is at once removed to an unobjectionable site.

MR. H. O. L. MARIKAR: May I know when the workmen at the Neriamangalam bridge began their work, an arrack shop situated in Kavilampara was removed to the very door of the workmen?

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: I rise to a point of order. Sir, is the present discussion in order?

PRESIDENT: It is not in order.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: From actual experience I find that it is not impossible for an officer to manage the department when all the four branches are combined together. I have never felt any difficulty in devoting adequate attention to all the branches of the department. So I submit that there is no necessity for separation and the present

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circumstances do not justify the separation of the Customs from the Excise Department.

The resolution was put to the vote of the House and lost.

MR. A. N. VISVANATHA PILLAI: I demand a poll.

A poll was taken and the House divided as follows:—

AYES—13.

1	Mr.	V. S. Arumukham Pillai	8	Mr.	N. K. Padmanabha Pillai
2	,,	Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi	9	,,	P. Padmanabhan Tampi
3	,,	H. O. L. Marikar	10	,,	M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai
4	,,	M. N. Narayana Menon	11	,,	S. Piraviperumal Pillai
5	,,	Kallur Narayana Pillai	12	,,	Kattlyattu Sivarama Panickar
6	,,	K. P. Nilakanata Pillai	13		A. N. Visvanatha Pillai.
7	,,	K. Padmanabha Panickar			

NOES—18.

1	Mr.	S. Adam Sait	10	,,	K. P. Padmanabha Menon
2	,,	R. Dhanukoti Pillai	11	,,	G. Paramesvaran Pillai
3	,,	K. George	12	,,	K. Paramesvaran Pillai
4	,,	M. Govinda Pillai	13	,,	Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai
5	,,	Jacob Hassan Sait	14	,,	N. S. Raman Pillai
6	,,	J. John Kattakayam	15	,,	K. Rama Varma Raja
7	,,	C. M. Joseph	16	,,	K. Sankaralingam Pillai
8	,,	K N. Kesavan Namputiripad	17	,,	Komilezhathu Sankaran
9	,,	R. Nilakanta Pillai	18	,,	K. K. Thomas

NEUTRALS—2.

1	Mr.	K. Madhavan Pillai.	2	Mr.	G. Narayana Aiyar.

The resolution was declared lost.

ENACTMENT OF THE LAW OF TRANSFER.

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: Considering the importance of the next resolution and the amendments brought by Mr. Narayana Menon, I do not move the following resolution which stands in my name.

This Council recommends to the Government that a law of transfer be enacted in Travancore.

The resolution was not moved.

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